



March 2014

“LOCAL FOOD” FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food

Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food is a USDA effort to create new economic opportunities by connecting consumers with local producers. The Farm Bill provides grants and loans for entrepreneurs, many of whom are just beginning to farm and break into expanding markets for organic and locally grown foods. USDA Rural Development is a key player in USDA’s effort to fund and develop food hubs and local and regional food systems.

An increase in consumer demand for locally-produced food is creating jobs and opportunity throughout rural America. Beginning farmers are finding an entry point into agriculture through local markets. Experienced farmers are diversifying their sales to capture added value through local branding.

Small businesses are developing new packing, processing, distribution, and retail opportunities. Consumers are learning about where their food comes from and gaining access to fresh, local food.



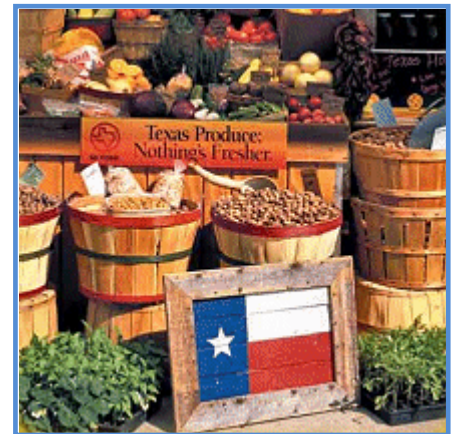
Whether you are an individual looking to extend your growing season, a cooperative of growers looking to rebuild a food hub, a farmers’ market that wants to accept SNAP benefits, a community kitchen that needs cold storage to store locally procured meat, or anyone in between, USDA has over two dozen programs that can help you.

Rural Development offers five programs that support the Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Initiative:

- [Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program](#)
- [Community Facilities](#)
- [Rural Business Enterprise Grants](#)
- [Rural Cooperative Development Grants](#)
- [Value Added Producer Grants](#)

Eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Food Banks/Shelves – purchase building and equipment, purchase vehicles for food delivery, renovations, and new construction
- School Cafeterias – purchase equipment, renovations, and central processing and distribution centers.
- Farmers Markets - purchase building, renovation, and new construction.
- Community Gardens – purchase real estate and infrastructure to connect to the water sources and/or provide irrigation.
- Community Kitchens – purchase equipment, renovations, or new construction.



Contact Information: Please visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx> and view the statewide directory to find an office near you.

Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food information can be viewed at:
<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=KNOWYOURFARMER>